


REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are active in the present application. Claims 3-9 and 12 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No:

Amendment Filed on:

4-5-2002IN THE CLAIMS

--3. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the mixture to be treated is a mixture containing, as components, (meth)acrylic acid and an organic liquid having a higher boiling point than (meth)acrylic acid.

4. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the mixture to be treated comprises $\geq 95\%$ by weight of (meth)acrylic acid.

5. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, which is a rectification, extraction or absorption process.

6. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are either all methyl or all ethyl.

7. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein X is H.

8. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, which is carried out at from 100 to 200°C.

9. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, which is carried out at ≤ 100 mbar.

12. (Amended) A mixture as claimed in claim 10 [or 11], wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are either all methyl or all ethyl.--